



STATE OF ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR PAT QUINN

-200, Chicago, IL 60601

For Immediate Release
Thursday, May 19, 2005

Letter-to-the-Editor
By Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn

(310 words)

“I-CAN bottle bill will cut litter, create jobs”

Dear Editor,

As summer nears, Illinoisans will soon take to the road. Parents and kids will see beaches, lakes and mountains...of empty beverage containers.

Due to explosive growth in consumption of bottled water and sports drinks, plastic beverage containers spoil our roads and waterways, strain landfill capacity, and boost dependence on foreign sources of petroleum. In the 11 states with bottle bills, beverage container litter has been cut by up to 80%, created new jobs, and helped conserve natural resources.

We could save millions of Illinois taxpayer dollars annually in litter pickup and disposal costs if a bottle bill was enacted. That's why Illinois needs *I-CAN*, a beverage container recycling bill.

Under *I-CAN*, a 5-cent deposit would be placed on every beverage container sold in Illinois. This nickel - plus a 2-cent handling fee paid by the distributor - would go into a new state environmental trust fund. The consumer is reimbursed when the container is returned. The redemption center accepting the container would bill the state for each deposit it paid out, plus a 2-cent fee for each bottle it took in. Unclaimed deposits would be used for Illinois environmental initiatives. Consumers who return their containers get their full deposit back. Those choosing not to recycle simply lose their deposit, but that will help compensate state and local governments for litter pickup and landfill expansion.

The *I-CAN* bottle bill will create new jobs in retail, distribution and recycling industries. Michigan saw a net gain of 4,648 jobs when it enacted its bottle bill (not including neighborhood kids who earn pocket change by collecting cans and bottles.)

A litter-free environment helps public health, tourism and wildlife habitat. Cut litter and taxes, reduce reliance on foreign oil, and create jobs? We CAN with *I-CAN*. Urge your legislators to support beverage container recycling today!

Sincerely,

Pat Quinn
Illinois Lieutenant Governor